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Major Salvador Dalí Painting Acquired by Cleveland Museum of Art

CLEVELAND — *The Dream (La Rêve)*, by the 20th-century painter Salvador Dalí, was acquired in a special meeting of the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) accessions committee Wednesday evening, CMA director Katharine Lee Reid announced today. Considered one of the artist's most important and powerful Surrealist paintings, *The Dream* will go on view in CMA's modern gallery 237 Friday, April 27, for about six months before undergoing treatment in the museum's conservation studio.

The Dream (1931) is a melding of images from hallucinations and dreams, revealing the Surrealist movement's inspiration in the then-emerging science of psychoanalysis and writings of Sigmund Freud. The images in the painting are related to scenes from Dalí's well-known film *An Andalusian Dog* (1929). A central figure has ants clustered over its face where a mouth should be, and has sealed, bulging, eyelids, suggesting the sensory confusion and frustrations of a dream. Figures in the background at the left, portrayed with a scepter or key and classical columns, refer to the story of Oedipus, who unwittingly killed his father and wedded his mother. Freud interpreted this ancient tale as symbolic of a child's conflicting feelings toward his parents.

"This painting is among Dali's most important and successful attempts at giving visual form to the enigmatic, often disturbing world of unconscious thought. The CMA's extraordinary collection has, until now, lacked a major Surrealist painting, who were such a vital cultural force internationally. For the museum to be able to obtain a key early painting with such compelling power and historical importance is a very rare opportunity," said Reid.

The work was particularly significant to the artist (Spanish, 1904–1989). For the "First International Surrealist Exhibition" organized in London in 1936, Dalí asked to be represented by three specific works, including this one, with which he then posed for photographs with his fellow Surrealists.

The Dream has been widely published and exhibited. The CMA purchased it from a private collection through a dealer.

For more information about the CMA call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit **www.clevelandart.org**.

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Color images are available via e-mail to donley@cma-oh.org or limpach@cma-oh.org.